



COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION
First session
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Item 3 (a) of the provisional agenda

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 22,
PARAGRAPH 2(a) AND (b), AND ARTICLE 26 OF THE CONVENTION

REVIEW OF REPORTS ON IMPLEMENTATION BY AFFECTED AFRICAN COUNTRY PARTIES,
INCLUDING ON THE PARTICIPATORY PROCESS, AND ON EXPERIENCE GAINED AND
RESULTS ACHIEVED IN THE PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTION PROGRAMMES

Addendum

INPUTS FROM THE REGIONAL MEETING OF AFFECTED AFRICAN COUNTRY PARTIES

Note by the secretariat

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I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

A. Opening of the meeting

1. The African Regional Conference preparatory to the first session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC) was held in Windhoek, Namibia, from 15 to 19 July 2002. It was organized jointly by the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Namibia, with the financial support of the governments of Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Norway and Switzerland.

2. The opening ceremony started with an address by Dr. Jacqui Badcock, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in Namibia, who referred to UNDP's activities in support of sustainable development and poverty reduction in Africa. It was followed by a statement made by Mr. Hama Arba Diallo, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD secretariat, who gave an overview of the status of implementation of the Convention in Africa and highlighted the link between poverty and desertification. Hon. Peter N. Iilonga, Deputy Minister of Environment and Tourism of Namibia, representing Hon. Philemon Malima, Minister of Environment and Tourism of Namibia, delivered a keynote address. He explained that Namibia, on account of its specific geographic conditions, was highly affected by desertification and land degradation and recognized its obligations under the UNCCD.

B. Election of the chairperson and other officers

3. The participants elected Mr. Sem Shikongo (Namibia) chairperson of the meeting. Mr. Steven Muwaya (Uganda), Ms. Maria Luisa Lobo Lima (Cape Verde) and Mr. Etienne Kayengeyenge (Burundi) were elected vice-chairpersons. Dr. Ismail Hamdi Mamoud El Bagouri (Egypt) was elected rapporteur of the meeting.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

4. The participants adopted the provisional agenda as proposed by the chairperson. The whole conference took place in plenary.

5. Ambassador Rogatien Biaou, chairperson of the African group and chairperson of the CRIC, gave a presentation on the implementation process at various levels in Africa, on synergies with other international initiatives, on the strategic options for Africa and expected outputs from the CRIC. His presentation was followed by a general introduction to the institutional process leading to the first session of the CRIC given by the UNCCD secretariat, in which it highlighted the seven key thematic topics adopted by the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 5) and summarized the lessons learned from the 47 national reports submitted to the secretariat.

6. The meeting heard presentations of national reports from the following affected African country Parties:

Algeria	Egypt	Namibia
Angola	Eritrea	Niger
Benin	Ethiopia	Nigeria
Botswana	Gabon	Rwanda
Burkina Faso	Gambia	Sao Tome and Principe
Burundi	Ghana	Senegal
Cape Verde	Guinea	Sudan
Central African Republic	Guinea-Bissau	Swaziland
Chad	Kenya	Tanzania
Congo	Lesotho	Togo
Côte d'Ivoire	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Tunisia
Democratic Republic of Congo	Madagascar	Uganda
Djibouti	Malawi	Zambia
	Mali	Zimbabwe
	Morocco	

Presentations were made in clusters according to the five African geographical subregions (western, central, northern, eastern and southern Africa).

7. It also heard the following subregional reports:

Subregional action programme for western Africa and Chad (presented by Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS))
 Subregional action programme for central Africa (presented by Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC))
 Subregional action programme for the Arab Maghreb Union (presented by Arab Maghreb Union (UMA))
 Subregional action programme for eastern Africa (presented by Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD))
 Subregional action programme for southern Africa (presented by Southern African Development Community - Environment and Land Management Sector (SADC-ELMS))

8. It further heard presentations of the reports of the following developed Parties:

Finland	Germany
France	Italy
European Community	Netherlands

9. It also heard the presentations of the following intergovernmental organizations, United Nations organizations and international and multilateral agencies:

African Development Bank (ADB)
 African Union (AU)
 World Bank
 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN/ECA)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)

Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS)

10. Pursuant to decision 1/COP.5, the African representative on the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and the representative of the Global Mechanism (GM) provided advice and information to the meeting.

11. During the meeting, three sessions of an interactive dialogue were held focusing on the seven key thematic topics identified by COP 5. The first session discussed the three institutional topics: the participatory process, the legislative and institutional arrangements and the linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions. The second dialogue focused on resource mobilization and coordination, including the conclusion of partnership agreements. The third session reviewed the technical thematic topics: rehabilitation of degraded land, monitoring, assessment and early warning systems, and access to appropriate technology, knowledge and know-how.

D. Attendance

12. The list of participants is given at annex II to this document.

E. Documentation

13. The following documents were made available for consideration by the meeting:

ICCD/CRIC(1)/2 Review of reports on implementation by affected African country Parties, including on the participatory process, and on experience gained and results achieved in the preparation and implementation of action programmes

ICCD/CRIC(1)/2/Add.1(A) Synthesis and preliminary analysis of information contained in reports submitted by affected African country Parties

ICCD/CRIC(1)/2/Add.1(B) Progress made in the formulation and implementation of subregional action programmes and the regional action programme in Africa

ICCD/CRIC(1)/6 Review of reports by developed country Parties on measures taken to assist in the preparation and implementation of action programmes of affected country Parties of all regions, including information on financial resources they have provided, or are providing, under the Convention

ICCD/CRIC(1)/6/Add.1 Synthesis and preliminary analysis of information contained in reports submitted by developed country Parties

ICCD/CRIC(1)/7 Review of information provided by relevant organs, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, on their activities in support of the preparation and implementation of action programmes under the Convention

II. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

14. Of the 47 African country Parties that had submitted their national reports within the set deadline, 41 were represented in Windhoek and a brief summary on progress made in the implementation of the Convention was given by the respective UNCCD national focal points. The representative of one country that had submitted its report after the deadline also made a presentation. As for the subregional and regional action programmes, all submitted reports were presented and discussed at the meeting. Nearly all presentations followed the guidelines given by the secretariat and focused on the seven key thematic topics identified by COP 5 for the review of the implementation of the Convention.

15. The representatives of developed country Parties, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations organizations, and international and multilateral agencies gave presentations of their support to African countries and subregions since the submission of their first reports in 1999, giving concrete examples. Discussion focused on future support for implementation of existing action programmes and the need to better inform embassies and other representatives of development partners based in Africa about the UNCCD process.

16. In the presentation of reports and during the first session of the interactive dialogue, emphasis was put on institutional matters such as participatory process, legal and institutional frameworks, and linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions.

17. With regard to the participatory process, all countries reported the involvement of major stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of national action programmes (NAPs). Representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) nevertheless wished to see their participation in the process of programme implementation increased. Participants also noted the need to further sensitize the private sector, to mobilize its support to the process. It was agreed that participation could be more effective if governments underlined more clearly the fact that they are at the service of resource users.

18. The presentations made it clear that in most of the countries the national coordinating bodies are not positioned at the appropriate level and are therefore not able to perform their coordinating role. In addition, the UNCCD national focal points, which are officially designated by the

government, have too many responsibilities to be able to facilitate properly the UNCCD implementation process. Participants therefore recommended assessing the effectiveness of the national coordinating bodies and identifying ways and means to support them in implementing the Convention.

19. Country Parties stressed the benefits of linking the UNCCD process with other international agreements on sustainable development and national development strategies, including increased information sharing. In this context, participants agreed on the need to include NAPs in national poverty reduction strategies. It was concluded that the synergies concept remains theoretical and has not yet reached the local level.

20. The second session of the interactive dialogue focused on the mobilization of resources and the conclusion of partnership agreements, and the need to secure adequate and predictable funding for the implementation of the Convention in Africa. So far, only a few partnership agreements have been concluded due to the limitation on internal and external resources. Countries that have finalized their national action programmes should initiate, jointly with interested developed country Parties, a country-driven consultative mechanism aiming at long-term partnership building. Regular meetings between UNCCD national focal points, officials from other conventions and initiatives on sustainable development could also help to strengthen synergies, identify joint activities and mobilize resources to implement such activities.

21. Participants stressed the need to have more information on the current opportunities for mobilizing existing resources within the programming cycles of bilateral and multilateral development partners, and to have meaningful influence on decision-making processes in affected African country Parties and within international financial institutions and bilateral development partners.

22. With regard to scientific and technological issues, on which the third session of the interactive dialogue was focused, there was limited reference in either the national reports or the presentations made at the regional meeting to the recommendations from the CST on benchmarks and indicators, early warning systems, and the use of traditional knowledge. However, participants at the meeting suggested that while a significant number of scientific and technical activities to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought were being implemented at the national and regional levels, the format suggested by the Help Guide did not allow for an adequate description of these activities in the national report, and they recommended changes to the Help Guide in the future.

23. A draft text summarizing the conclusions and recommendations of the meeting was distributed to all participants, who had the opportunity to propose amendments and comments. The document reflects the main issues raised by the participants (see chapter III).

24. The closing session of the meeting on 19 July 2002 was introduced by a vote of thanks read by Ms. Lillian Mushota, Zambia Alliance of Women, through which participants expressed their heartfelt appreciation to the Government

of Namibia for having generously hosted the meeting. It was followed by a statement by Dr. Jacqui Badcock, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations and UNDP Resident Representative in Namibia, and an address by Mr. Hama Arba Diallo, Executive Secretary of the UNCCD secretariat. The meeting was officially closed by Ms. Maria Kapere, Under-secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of Namibia.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

25. Poverty eradication, economic development, social development and environmental protection in Africa mean decent employment and sustainable job creation, particularly for women, youth and vulnerable groups. Increased cooperation between all actors to address the issues critical in combating desertification is a precondition for environmental and social stability. The time has come in the UNCCD implementation process to give concerted support to the Convention as an instrument for sustainable development and poverty eradication. The following conclusions and recommendations contain a set of policies and measures to combat the continued process of desertification and its negative impacts on the sustainable livelihoods of people living in affected areas.

26. Participants to the African Regional Conference preparatory to the first session of the CRIC, held in Windhoek, Namibia, in July 2002,

Having reviewed the implementation of the UNCCD in Africa in the light of the reports presented by African country Parties, developed country Parties, UN organizations, other international organizations and subregional and regional institutions,

Recalling the Agadez Call of the Panel of Eminent Personalities on Combating Desertification in February 2002 and the conclusions of the Ministerial Conference of the UNCCD preparatory to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Praia, Cape Verde, in March 2002,

Agreed upon the following conclusions and recommendations to provide the first session of the CRIC with the required regional input from the African continent:

A. Monitoring and reporting of the implementation of the Convention

1. *National reports for the UNCCD assessment process*

27. The efforts made by country Parties to elaborate and submit on time their national reports for review by the first session of the CRIC were noted with appreciation. The involvement of civil society in this exercise, as advocated by the Help Guide, deserves to be further pursued.

28. Partial compliance with the Help Guide by some countries coupled with insufficient analytical consideration of progress made under the Convention in the period under review made it difficult to obtain a clear picture of the

status of UNCCD implementation in Africa. Furthermore, the limited information on the scientific and technical aspects given in the reports made it difficult to assess progress in these areas. Nevertheless, the reports of few countries took into account the format proposed by the Help Guide, in particular regarding the scientific and technical aspects.

29. In this context, the support provided by the UNCCD secretariat to country Parties in the elaboration of their national reports was acknowledged. The very limited level of financial resources provided for reporting should be raised to meet the needs of the African country Parties in terms of collecting and processing data and managing information.

2. Subregional reports

30. The Conference noted with appreciation the contribution of the African subregional organizations, namely CILSS and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), IGAD, SADC, UMA and CEMAC, in formulating the subregional reports on the implementation of the UNCCD in their respective constituencies. These institutions have helped to ensure the coordination required for the formulation and implementation of the NAPs in their respective constituencies, and kept in mind complementary features of NAPs and subregional action programmes (SRAPs). In addition, their role in furthering work on transboundary issues was recognized.

3. Regional report

31. It was noted that, while a regional overview of Africa is to be provided on a regular basis, the current reporting from the thematic programme networks (TPN) under the regional actions programme (RAP) for Africa did not sufficiently highlight existing linkages with the CST priority thematic areas at national and subregional levels. TPNs should prepare and submit, through African country Parties, to the CST the priority thematic areas at the regional level.

4. Reports by developed country Parties, regional, international and intergovernmental organizations and agencies

32. Participation of some developed country Parties in the UNCCD reporting exercise for Africa is appreciated as an integral part of meaningful preparation of the CRIC. Indeed, the review process at the regional level is necessary to maximize the results of efforts made by affected African country Parties.

33. The Conference expressed its appreciation of the useful reports submitted by developed country Parties and by regional, international and intergovernmental institutions on support provided to African country Parties in carrying out their obligations under the UNCCD. However, the specific information provided on the UNCCD process itself was not adequate. The Conference invited the UNCCD secretariat to take into account the proposals contained in these reports.

Recommendations

34. National reporting on the progress of the implementation process should receive predictable and appropriate financial support, notably to secure the participation of stakeholders at all levels, particularly at local level.

35. The UNCCD secretariat, in collaboration with partner agencies, is invited to assist countries to prepare country profiles providing valuable information to the CRIC to complement national reports. The profiles should contain substantive data analysis of the extent of land degradation, desertification and the impact of drought.

36. An in-depth review of selected national reports presented by affected African country parties to the first session of the CRIC should be facilitated by the secretariat and partner agencies to promote a more substantive ground assessment of the implementation of the Convention at national level, with a view to improving the usefulness of lessons learned, promoting the Convention as an instrument for sustainable development and poverty eradication and integrating it in the national planning systems. New working methods to bring about an effective exchange of lessons learned should also be explored.

37. The meeting called upon the UNCCD secretariat to facilitate a joint evaluation of the implementation process of the Convention in Africa by developed country Parties, developing country Parties and interested multilateral partners, the results of which should be submitted to COP 7. The UNCCD secretariat is also called upon to prepare an assessment or performance appraisal of the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of various African regional conferences held since 1997, with the aim of submitting it for consideration by the African Regional Conference to take place in Cotonou, Benin, in 2003, in preparation to the sixth session of the COP.

38. The Conference invites the secretariat to review and update the Help Guide on a regular basis.

B. Participatory process involving civil society, NGOs
and community-based organizations

39. The creation of an enabling environment to foster decentralization and the involvement of civil society will encourage NGOs, the community-based organizations (CBOs) and representatives from the scientific and research community, to support the NAP framework and provide inputs into the process of formulating and implementing action programmes.

40. The Conference welcomed the Desertification 2002 initiative in southern Africa and recommended a targeted support of the initiative by all stakeholders to enable replication in other parts of Africa. This would promote the active participation of civil society in achieving the Convention's objectives.

Recommendation

41. The representatives of civil society are invited to continue enhancing their contribution to the work of the national coordinating bodies (NCBs) for the full and effective implementation of the Convention.

C. Legislative and institutional frameworks or arrangements

42. New institutional, legislative and regulatory arrangements have been put in place by some countries, especially with regard to the management of land-based natural resources.

43. All countries established a multidisciplinary coordinating body and designated a national focal point. Many African countries emphasized the need for a more representative institution, with more independence and resources.

44. Weak institutional capacities, policy inconsistencies, the poor harmonization and/or enforcement of environmental law, and land tenure issues were recognized as some of the main challenges.

Recommendation

45. Country Parties, as appropriate, are encouraged to strengthen NCBs to enable them to carry out their responsibilities effectively under the UNCCD.

D. Resources mobilization and coordination, both domestic and international, including conclusion of partnership agreements

1. *General considerations*

46. The developmental and environmental objectives of the UNCCD will require a substantial flow of financial resources to African country Parties, in order to strengthen the capacity of institutions for the implementation of the UNCCD and to cover the costs of implementing the priority activities of NAPs, SRAPs and RAP.

47. While the lack of adequate and predictable funding has hindered the implementation of the UNCCD, African countries have faced at the same time deteriorating economic conditions, recurrent drought, increased food scarcity and poverty, the AIDS pandemic, malaria, unsustainable use of natural resources and vulnerability to natural disasters.

48. The African country Parties acknowledge, with appreciation, the support so far provided by developed country Parties, international organizations and multilateral financial institutions to the process of formulating and implementing action programmes in Africa. Due appreciation was also expressed for the active support of several developed country Parties that have assumed the role of *chef de file*.

49. The need to design economic instruments and environmental services that allow the channeling of public and private investments to combat

desertification and to mitigate the effects of drought at all levels was emphasized.

50. The African country Parties noted that many developed country Parties, international organizations and multilateral financial institutions had not yet adjusted their procedures for the delivery of programme resources with their commitments as Parties to the Convention.

*2. Support to the implementation of the Convention
by the Global Environment Facility (GEF)*

51. The Conference strongly urged the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and the GEF Assembly to designate the GEF as a financial mechanism of the UNCCD, so as to provide the Convention with adequate and predictable funding to achieve its objectives in a timely and efficient manner, while recognizing the complementary role of the GM.

52. The Conference acknowledged the collaboration between the UNCCD secretariat and the GEF secretariat and underlined the necessity for the Executive Secretary of the Convention's secretariat, the Chairman of the Conference and the Chairman of the African Group of the UNCCD, in conjunction with the developed country Parties to the Convention, to take all necessary measures and arrangements to follow up the decisions adopted by the last GEF Council in May 2002 as well as the second GEF Assembly, relating to the financing of the UNCCD in Africa.

3. Global Mechanism

53. The Conference emphasized that the GM and its Facilitation Committee should focus their activities on mobilizing and channeling financial resources in accordance with their mandate, in order to accelerate the implementation process of the Convention in Africa.

4. Contributions required for the core budget of the Convention

54. The Conference noted with deep concern the fact that most of the African countries had not paid in a timely fashion their statutory contribution to the regular budget of the UNCCD.

Recommendations

55. COP 6, with the support of interested multilateral organizations, the Global Mechanism and the UNCCD secretariat, should invite affected country Parties and developed country Parties to set up on a voluntary basis a country-driven consultative mechanism in countries that have finalized their NAP. This mechanism should aim at longer-term partnership building with a view to jointly identifying the best options for further mainstreaming the UNCCD in the national development framework and mobilizing, in a more predictable manner, the much needed financial resources for NAP implementation.

56. Developed country Parties are requested to take the necessary policy and administrative steps to enable them, as appropriate and called for, to perform the role of *chef de file* and to participate actively in the above-mentioned consultative process.

57. Development partners are called upon to reconsider their funding procedures and application requirements with a view to developing clear and concise procedure that can be considered by interested bilateral and multilateral development partners supporting the implementation of the UNCCD.

58. The Conference recommended that COP 6, in the framework of the second review of the policies, operational modalities and activities of the GM, should appraise the performance of the GM in mobilizing and channeling financial resources, including transfer of technology, to affected country Parties in accordance with its mandate.

59. Adequate financial resources for the implementation of the UNCCD should be secured in the spirit of the WSSD so as to contribute to the eradication of rural poverty, particularly in the vulnerable arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid ecosystems of the least developed countries (LDCs), and to enable country Parties to play a meaningful role in the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) environment initiative.

60. Parties to the Convention, with the support of the GEF, the GM and partner agencies are invited, with the support of the secretariat, to facilitate concerted assessment, on an indicative basis, of the level of financial resources required from development partners, with a view to drawing up a clear plan of resource allocation in order adequately and timely to address the issues of financial support and capacity building prior to COP 7.

61. Affected developing countries are urged to substantially increase their budgetary allocations to reflect their commitment to the implementation of the UNCCD and to bring forward priority projects or programmes for the NAPs in their regular negotiations with developed country Parties.

62. The GEF is called upon, at its Second Assembly meeting in Beijing, China, in October 2002: 1) to take action on the recommendations of the GEF Council concerning the designation of land degradation (desertification and deforestation) as a focal area, as a means of GEF support for the successful implementation of the UNCCD, 2) to make GEF a financial mechanism of the UNCCD taking into account the prerogatives and decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

63. The African Development Bank and other multilateral funding agencies are called upon to provide financial resources and facilitate pre-feasibility studies for investment projects with the view to enabling African country Parties to undertake larger investment programmes in the context of implementing the Convention.

64. All African countries that have not yet paid their contributions for the years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 should do so before the end of

2002. The UNCCD secretariat is called upon to provide, before the end of September 2002, invoices to individual country Parties indicating the amount due to cover the period up to the end of 2003.

E. Linkages and synergies with other international conventions and, as appropriate, with national development strategies

65. It is increasingly recognized that one of the national focal points' essential tasks, is to ensure, in the framework of concerned governmental bodies, meaningful linkages with relevant strategic frameworks, multilateral initiatives and the relevant programmes negotiated with bilateral donors.

66. In a context of increased pressure from rural poverty and the worsening impact of climate change, it is also necessary to strengthen synergies with other legal instruments dealing with the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources critical to the survival of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid ecosystems and people living in affected areas. In this context, the National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) is closely related to the NAP, and better linkages would increase the benefits of these programmes, especially for affected LDCs.

67. Relevant planning frameworks exist or are being developed for water, forest, wetlands and biodiversity. By taking a synergistic approach, the UNCCD, backed by a GEF new focal area on land degradation, could greatly enhance a more integrated and participatory approach to sustainable livelihoods and ecosystem conservation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas.

68. To promote the synergies between environmental conventions, it is necessary to demonstrate the benefits to the private sector, since it is the private sector which should finance implementation of many of the proposed initiatives.

69. Towards the various initiatives of the Parties, the UNCCD secretariat and partner agencies are invited to facilitate at country level the implementation of activities directed to promote synergies among the UNFCCC, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands in the light of the recent developments under the GEF.

Recommendations

70. The UNCCD secretariat is encouraged to continue its efforts, building upon the recommendations made by the Addis Ababa and Cotonou workshops held in 2001 on the integration of the priority activities of the UNCCD into the Country Support Strategies and Regional Support Strategies of the ACP-EU Cotonou Partnership Agreement to link poverty and land degradation aspects through the Cotonou Partnership Agreement. In addition, country Parties are encouraged to include and prioritize the Convention's objectives in national and regional development policies.

71. The search for synergies at country level must be supported by appropriate incentive systems, institutional arrangements for coordination and responsiveness by the respective COPs of the conventions and their secretariats.

72. The secretariat is invited to continue working on adequate methodologies and supporting the holding of synergy workshops in countries of the region with a view to finalizing the process of guidelines preparation prior to COP 6.

73. The UNCCD and GEF focal points at country level should liaise more closely between themselves and with the focal points of the CBD, UNFCCC, UNFF and Ramsar for a more integrated management of programmes and projects and preparation of project proposals for various donor organizations.

F. Measures for the rehabilitation of degraded land
and for mitigating the effects of drought

74. Overall diagnostic studies of past experience in combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought have been carried out by African country Parties, and some countries reported on concrete programmes and projects to rehabilitate degraded land. Substantive results have been achieved by measures to arrest land degradation through various techniques such as reforestation and water conservation measures. However, more information on the sustainability of these initiatives is needed.

75. UNCCD programmes and projects address critical issues such as water scarcity, watershed management, deforestation and drought, which are often the subject of policy planning.

Recommendation

76. Further research should be promoted to identify options to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought. Support needs to be increased for research institutions to develop new approaches and technologies, and provide them with the benefit of appropriate technologies through strengthened mechanisms and information exchange. The results of the research should be disseminated to all stakeholders, including at the grassroots.

G. Drought and desertification assessment, monitoring
and early warning systems

77. Parties have recognized the need to develop and apply benchmarks and indicators in order to monitor and assess changes in land use. However, the use of different benchmarks and indicators, as well as their diverging levels of use, have hampered comparability at the national, subregional and regional levels. As well, the scale and resolution of maps differ considerably, making it difficult to harmonize the exchange of data and information among institutions, as well as between regions. Limited human, institutional and financial capacities in these areas constitute constraints in undertaking effective monitoring and assessment.

78. Several country Parties have developed early warning systems to forecast drought, even though most of the early warning systems in Africa relate to food security. Parties have indicated that improved mechanisms will be needed to identify and mitigate the effects of drought relating to the El Niño phenomenon.

Recommendations

79. African country Parties are encouraged to implement the recommendations of the CST, as well as the Ad Hoc Working Group, to strengthen the use of traditional knowledge, early warning systems, benchmarks and indicators for monitoring desertification, drought and land degradation in the region.

80. Country Parties should continue to assess and evaluate progress made in implementing the Convention by using pertinent, quantifiable and readily verifiable benchmarks and indicators for both implementation and impact, as identified by the CST, including those related to measuring the participation of local populations, communities and major groups, particularly women and youth.

H. Access by affected country Parties, particularly affected developing country Parties, to appropriate technology, knowledge and know-how

81. A wide range of techniques, technologies and traditional knowledge has been utilized in the implementation of the UNCCD. Further outreach is needed to ensure the adequate exchange of information at all levels, especially among CBOs and NGOs. Increased financial, technical and other support is required for the transfer of technology. The role of the CST to facilitate the process of South-South and North-South cooperation in this area is important.

Recommendations

82. It is necessary to disseminate and apply findings and know-how of traditional knowledge and best practices in combination with modern technologies, adapted to local conditions where appropriate.

83. In order to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the CST, the establishment of a special group of 25 experts and scientists under the authority of the CST on the basis of equitable geographical representation, should be pursued.

84. In the interest of building synergies with the scientific bodies of the UNFCCC and CBD, the CST and its Group of Experts should work closely with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), as well as with other initiatives, such as the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MEA) and the Land Degradation Assessment (LADA), to take advantage of outcomes from these bodies.

I. Priorities at national, subregional and regional levels

1. *National level*

85. In conformity with the provisions of the Convention, and of decision 8/COP.4 on the "Declaration on the commitments to enhance the implementation of the obligations of the Convention", country Parties are pursuing the application of recommendations adopted by the Fifth African Regional Conference held in Maputo, Mozambique, in August 2001, inviting African country Parties to vigorously pursue their efforts in implementing the Convention, notably at local level, and to strengthen, as appropriate, links between national focal points and their development cooperation agencies and to enhance the integration of implementation of the Convention into national development strategies and other relevant policy areas.

2. *Subregional level*

86. Effective implementation of the planned activities of the four existing subregional action programmes in Africa is being hampered by a lack of adequate partnership agreements or arrangements. The SRAPs cannot produce the expected results if they proceed on the basis of *ad hoc* support initiatives.

3. *Regional level*

87. While the launching of the remaining thematic programme networks, namely the network for environmental monitoring, the network to promote renewable energy sources and the network to promote sustainable farming systems, is under preparation, the designated institutional focal points are invited to support the networks with appropriate infrastructure and logistical arrangements. Furthermore, the Conference noted the adoption of the action plan of the NEPAD environment initiative as a tool for combating land degradation in the region.

Recommendations

88. In recognition of the potential of NAPs to enhance the coherence of policy frameworks dealing with sustainable livelihoods and natural resource protection in vulnerable affected ecosystems, the need for concerted support must be more consistently addressed, through predictable technical and financial assistance.

89. African country Parties that have not yet completed their NAPs are urged to continue taking all necessary measures and accelerate the process of elaborating and adopting their NAPs with a view to finalizing them at or before the end of 2005, as recommended by decision 8/COP.4.

90. Subregional institutions are invited to continue their efforts to integrate, as appropriate, African countries not members of subregional organizations in the preparation and implementation of subregional action programmes and transboundary activities concerning the five African subregions as stated in article 10 of the regional implementation annex for

Africa, and requests the secretariat, if necessary, to continue to facilitate such integration.

91. The Conference invites the UNCCD secretariat, in collaboration with UNEP, ADB and UN/ECA, to continue to provide support to the operationalization of the NEPAD environment initiative which would benefit from a close linkage with UNCCD implementation at the national and regional levels.

92. COP 6 is also called upon to adopt a decision on promoting financial support for the African regional thematic programme networks and subregional institutions to enable them to undertake their obligations of coordinating the implementation of the UNCCD in their constituencies, promote a necessary exchange on lessons learned, traditional knowledge and best practices and the dissemination of appropriate know-how and technologies in conformity with the guidance of the CST.

J. Global policy matters

93. African Parties commend the initiatives facilitated by the UNCCD secretariat in preparation of WSSD, notably the meeting of the Panel of Eminent Personalities held in Agadez, Niger, in February 2002, and the UNCCD Preparatory Conference to the WSSD held in Praia, Cape Verde, in March 2002.

94. The Conference welcomes preparations being made by African country Parties for the WSSD in Johannesburg. The WSSD should enhance support for UNCCD implementation in the sense of greater policy coherence and sharper focus on rural development in the affected areas.

95. It was noted that UNCCD programmes can contribute to global equity while alleviating increasing concerns that globalization will lead to the irreversible marginalization of arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid ecosystems by a world system driven by other international economic and financial imperatives.

96. The NEPAD environment initiative could find in the UNCCD implementation process a favourable field for its operationalization, as the Convention could contribute, in an integrated manner, to the core priorities of poverty eradication and environment protection.

Recommendations

97. The Conference recognizes the need to raise global public awareness, appreciation and support for the UNCCD and recommends that the UNCCD secretariat seeks a mechanism to lead such activities.

98. All Parties are invited to review budgetary allocations for promoting participatory and integrated local rural development. While African country Parties should earmark a higher portion of their national budget to this effect, developed country Parties should integrate this priority to guide the provision of new and additional resources in future allocation of official development assistance (ODA).

99. The development partners together with the GEF secretariat and GEF focal points in African countries are invited to recognize and realize fully the potential of the UNCCD for promoting integrated programmes with genuine local ownership and for eradicating poverty.

100. The Conference invites the WSSD to declare the UNCCD as a global instrument for eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development and to ensure adequate and predictable financial resources and capacity building at national and local levels, particularly for its implementation in Africa.

101. The UNCCD secretariat and partner agencies are invited to facilitate a critical assessment of the support rendered to the implementation of the UNCCD at COP 7 by a partnership of development partners and affected African country Parties. This joint assessment study would focus on achievements made and obstacles encountered, and strategies for strengthening the implementation of the Convention as a global sustainable development instrument.

Annex I

PREPARATION OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE CRIC

A. Nomination of the vice-chairpersons of the African group

1. In conformity with article 4 of the terms of reference of the CRIC, as annexed to decision 1/COP.5, concerning the composition of the Bureau of the CRIC, the fifth Conference of the Parties elected Ambassador Rogatien Biaou (Benin) chairperson of the CRIC (ICCD/COP(5)/11/Corr.1).

2. In order to ensure an effective follow-up of the recommendations adopted at the meeting and to assist Ambassador Biaou in his role of chairperson of the African group, it was agreed by the meeting to select five vice-chairpersons, representing each African geographical subregion:

Mr. Papa Mawade Wade (Senegal) for western Africa
Mr. Jean-Claude Bomba (Central African Republic) for central Africa
Mr. Steven Muwaya (Uganda) for eastern Africa
Mr. Bongani Simon Masuku (Swaziland) for southern Africa

The name of the vice-chairperson for northern Africa will be communicated by 19 November 2002, i.e. by the beginning of the first session of the CRIC, at the latest.

B. List of countries presenting case studies
at the first session of the CRIC

3. Decision 1/COP.5 concerning the nature of the review and methodology used by the CRIC states that the review, which is conceived as an experience-sharing and lessons-learning exercise, shall be conducted thematically, with due regard to geographic regions and subregions. In accordance with the provisional agenda of the first session of the CRIC (ICCD/CRIC(1)/1), and based on information provided in the national reports, through the presentations made at the meeting and further details given in the interactive dialogue, African country Parties nominated the following countries to present case studies at the session:

<u>Thematic topic</u>	<u>Country</u>
1: Participatory processes involving civil society, non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations	Namibia
2: Legislative and institutional frameworks or arrangements	Burkina Faso
3: Resource mobilization and coordination, both domestic and international, including conclusions of partnership agreements	Mali, Tunisia, Uganda
4: Linkages and synergies with other environmental conventions and, as appropriate, with national development strategies	Tanzania
5: Measures for the rehabilitation of degraded land	Lesotho

6: Drought and desertification monitoring and assessment; Senegal
early warning systems for mitigating the effects of
drought

7: Access by affected country Parties, particularly Egypt
affected developing country Parties, to appropriate
technology, knowledge and know-how

Annex II

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